

In support of media diversity, please

This letter is in regards to Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. It has become increasingly clear that conglomerate media ownership is a threat to participatory democracy, in that it narrows the debate and the number of voices heard in the American media. To further promote competition, diversity and localism in the marketplace for citizens' attention, I strongly urge that the FCC retain all media ownership rules currently in question. Flawed as they may be, they serve the public interest better than the rules envisioned. I see no advantage to the public good in increasing the market power of broadcast monoliths that are already demonstrating a self-serving attitude towards debate and diversity in public opinion.

I think additional hearings around the country are called for, beyond the scheduled talks in Richmond, VA. The impact of these rules is so important to our health as a nation, I believe the widest possible public participation is called for. The FCC needs to consider the impact on people, not just corporate interests.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider these remarks. Not only do I believe in freedom of speech, I believe in exercising it in a democratic system that pays attention to what its citizens are saying.

Respectfully,
Patrick J. Sauer
Albuquerque, NM